

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND IONEX COMMUNICATIONS NORTH, INC.	DOCKET NOS. NIA-97-24 NIA-98-38
---	------------------------------------

**ORDER APPROVING FIRST AND SECOND AMENDMENTS TO NEGOTIATED
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

(Issued July 10, 2000)

On April 10, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST), and FirstTel, Inc. (FirstTel), filed a first amendment to their existing negotiated interconnection agreement for Utilities Board (Board) review pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) in Docket No. NIA-98-38. Amendment one to the interconnection agreement recites that the interconnection agreement was first entered into by U S WEST and Advanced Communications Group, Inc. (ACG), and further that ACG assigned all of its rights in the interconnection agreement to its wholly-owned subsidiary, FirstTel, pursuant to a letter dated September 21, 1999. The Board approved the interconnection agreement, initially filed in Docket No. NIA-98-38 by order dated December 28, 1998. The Board issued an order giving public notice of the amendment and allowing any interested party the opportunity to submit written comments supporting approval or rejection of the agreement within 30 days of the filing. No comments were filed.

Also filed on April 10, 2000, by U S WEST and FirsTel, is a second amendment to the existing interconnection agreement. This second amendment was filed in Docket No. NIA-97-24. The Board approved the interconnection agreement initially filed by U S WEST and FirsTel on October 28, 1997, in Docket No. NIA-97-24 by order dated January 5, 1998. The Board issued an order giving public notice of the second amendment and allowing any interested party the opportunity to submit written comments supporting approval or rejection of the agreement within 30 days of the filing. No comments were filed.

In addition to the first amendment to the interconnection agreement, filed in Docket No. NIA-98-38, and the second amendment to the interconnection agreement, filed in Docket No. NIA-97-24, FirsTel also filed a request on April 10, 2000, that its existing certificate be cancelled and a new certificate be issued in the new corporate name of Ionex Communications North, Inc. (Ionex). The Board issued Certificate No. 0214 to Ionex on May 31, 2000. By letter dated May 26, 2000, counsel for Ionex has requested that the Board's order approving the amendments to the negotiated interconnection agreement recognize the new corporate name.

Pursuant to the federal statute, the Board may reject a negotiated interconnection agreement, or a substantive amendment to such an agreement, if it finds either: (1) the agreement (or a portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or (2) the implementation of the agreement (or a portion thereof) is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A). Based upon the record made

in this docket, the filed agreement does not discriminate against any other carrier and is not inconsistent with the public interest and will be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The first amendment to the negotiated interconnection agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc., and Ionex Communications North, Inc.¹, filed on April 10, 2000, and reviewed by the Utilities Board in a proceeding identified as Docket No. NIA-98-38, is approved to be effective upon issuance of this order.

2. The second amendment to the negotiated interconnection agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc., and Ionex Communications North, Inc., filed on April 10, 2000, and reviewed by the Utilities Board in a proceeding identified as Docket No. NIA-97-24, is approved to be effective upon issuance of this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 10th day of July, 2000.

¹ Filed as an amendment to the interconnection agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc., and Advanced Communications Group, Inc. approved December 28, 1998, and assigned to Firstel, Inc., effective September 21, 1999. Firstel, Inc. then requested the Board recognize its corporate name change to Ionex Communications North, Inc. in any order approving the amendments.